ORDER No. R. 1370-3—R. M. 7-25-24, DATED 16TH SEPTEMBER 1925.

Government are pleased to sanction an additional allotment of Rs. 20,000 for each of the Districts of Kolar and Tumkur for Takavi and Land Improvement Loans and a sum of Rs. 5,000 also for each of the Districts for Village Improvement works and for temporary wells.

2. A demand for the above additional amounts will be placed before the Legislative Council at its next sessions.

3. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to carefully watch the situation in these two Districts and forward a further report of the conditions two weeks hence.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Gratuitous Relief.

READ—

Demi-official letter of the 17th instant received from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, requesting for reasons stated, the grant of a sum of Rs. 500 for the Kolar District for gratuitous relief in view of the seasonal conditions prevailing there.

ORDER No. R. 1408-1410—R. M. 7-25-28, DATED 21ST SEPTEMBER 1925.

Sanctioned. The amount will be met by reappropriation.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Revised Rules re Suspension and Remission of Wet Assessment on Tank-irrigated lands.

READ—

Government Order No. R. 3748-58—L. R. 502-17-10, dated the 4th February 1922 issuing revised rules in the matter of suspension and remission of wet assessment on tank-irrigated lands and directing that they be adopted tentatively for a period of five years.

2. Correspondence ending with letter No. C. 3445—24-25, dated the 14th August 1925, from the Revenue Commissioner furnishing his opinion in the matter of change of the above rules.

ORDER No. R. 14-25—L. R. 149-24-74, DATED CAMP MYSORE, 3RD OCTOBER 1925

In the order of 1922, read above, the question of affording relief to raiyats in seasons of drought and distress was reviewed, and revised rules in the matter of granting suspension and remission of wet assessment were issued, to be in force tentatively for a period of five years. According to these rules, relief by way of suspension of wet assessment only is admissible in the first year in tracts where there has been general failure of rains and the suspensions are granted when such relief is found to be necessary on the ground of prevailing distress, and remission is given in the second year if the same conditions continue.

2. The relief afforded by the order was not found adequate during the severe distress that prevailed in parts of Kolar and Tumkur Districts in 1923-24, and 1924-25. Government accordingly relaxed as a special case some of the rules by extending the time for the submission of applications for relief, and by sanctioning remission instead of suspension of half assessment on wet lands in the Goribidnur and Maddagiri Taluks and Gudibanda and Koratagere Sub-Taluks. The Revenue Commissioner was also authorised to sanction suspensions of half wet assessment in areas where there was a total failure of crops or the outturn was less than four annas, irrespective of the other conditions laid down in the order of 1922. The collection of half garden assessment under tanks, wells and talapariges and of half wet assessment under wells and talapariges in the Taluks of Maddagiri, Pavagada and Goribidnur and Sub-Taluks of Koratagere and Gudibanda due for 1923-24, was also suspended for one year. In 1924-25, not only was a large portion of the suspended assessment of the previous year remitted, but fresh suspensions of assessment including those on bagayet lands were granted. As a result of these orders, suspensions and remissions to the extent of Rs. 1,77,854-11-1 and 63,349-1-10 respectively, have been sanctioned in the two Districts.

3. In the Representative Assembly Sessions of October 1924 and June 1925, a number of representations and resolutions were brought up requesting a revision of the present suspension and remission rules referred to in the Government Order of 4th February 1922, so as to make the rules more liberal and the grant of relief more prompt.

Though the period of five years during which the rules issued in 1922 had to be tried has not yet expired, in view of the numerous representations and resolutions referred to above and of the experience of the distress conditions of 1923-24, the Revenue Commissioner was requested to re-examine the subject and submit proposals for revision of the existing rules in consultation with the Deputy Commissioners of Districts.

4. The Revenue Commissioner recommends that the rules may be modified so as to permit the grant of remission of wet assessment in the very first year when owing to inadequate rainfall a large number of tanks in the tract do not receive adequate supply and that the concession may be extended to bagayet lands under tanks, other than those on which areca, cocoanut or such other perennial crops are grown and also to lands under talapariges common in parts of Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts which are most liable to drought. It is also proposed that the power of actual grant of remission in individual cases may be delegated to the Deputy Commissioner, provided the tract as a whole has previously been notified by Government as requiring the concession.

5. Government have carefully considered the whole question and are now pleased to issue revised rules in supersession of all previous orders on the subject. These revised rules will appear as an appendix to this order.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

APPENDIX.

(1) When owing to inadequate rainfall throughout any tract, a large number of tanks in the tract do not receive an adequate supply of water, and talapariges, if any, in the tract run dry, the Deputy Commissioner concerned will make a detailed report about the condition of the tract through the Revenue Commissioner so as to reach Government before the 15th November.

(2) The Government will, on receipt of such report, if they are satisfied that the tract is already so impoverished, or the previous harvests have been so poor as to render a measure of relief necessary, notify before the end of November that remission of half the wet and garden assessment under the affected tanks and talapariges in the tract, may be granted.

(3) The power of sanctioning remission to individual holders of lands under the concerned tanks and talapariges, in the tract so notified by Government, will rest with the Deputy Commissioner, after the tract is notified by Government as entitled to remission.

(4) Remission will be granted only when more than half the area of wet and garden lands, excluding those under perennial garden crops like areca and cocoanut, under the particular tank or talaparige affected, has remained uncultivated, or has, even though cultivated, yielded a crop of not more than four annas.

(5) Application for remission should be made by the villagers concerned to the Amildar before the 15th of December. It would be enough if some of the raiyats under a tank or talaparige apply on behalf of all the raiyats holding lands under the tank or talaparige if the land lies within the tracts notified by Government. Each individual raiyat in the affected tract need not apply.

(6) The Amildar shall, on receipt of the application, take a personal inspection of the affected tract without delay and submit a report of the result with a statement in the annexed form, to the Sub-Division Officer who will forward it to the Deputy Commissioner before the 15th of January with his own opinion after personal inspection and such further enquiry as he may consider necessary to satisfy himself about the accuracy of the Amildar's report.

(7) On receipt of the report, the Deputy Commissioner will, if he is satisfied with the claim of the villagers for remission, sanction remission of half the wet and garden assessment of the lands under the tank or talaparige concerned.

(8) A consolidated statement of remissions so granted shall be submitted by the Deputy Commissioner through the Revenue Commissioner for the information of Government before the beginning of the Khistbandi in February.

(9) The above rules will be applicable only to lands under tanks and talapariges and not to those under river and other channels, the supply of which is more or less certain and assured. They will not also apply to lands under tanks and talapariges which are cultivated with perennial garden crops, like areca and cocoanut.